

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-20 NSC-07 SCI-06 NAS-01 NSF-04 L-03

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

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O P 251630Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8243

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OESC TGEN UR

SUBJ: EXCHANGES: NAS EXCAHNGEE DR. HUBERT BARNES

REF:STATE 83252

1. SCI COUNSELOR MET APRIL 25 WITH KORNEYEV AND MOSKALEV
OF SOVIET

ACADEMY IN EFFORT TO CLARIFY BARNES CASE.

KORNEYEV, AS USUAL, WAS LESS THAN COMPLETELY OPEN IN
EXPLAINING REVERSAL OF HIS EARLIER POSITIVE POSITION ON
ENTRY TO USSR BY CAR VIA BREST FOR BARNES (REFTEL), BUT
MAIN OUTLINE OF COMPLICATIONS AS KORNEYEV EXPRESSED IT IS

AS FOLLOWS.

2. FURTHER CHECKING WITH SOVIET CUSTOMS AND MFA BY
SOVIET ACADEMY AFTER MARCH 29 LETTER FROM KORNEYEV CON-
VINCED ACADEMY THAT SOVIET BUREAUCRACY DOES NOT PERMIT
ENTRY BY CAR UNLESS TRAVELER PURCHASES APPROPRIATE "TOUR"
FROM INTOURIST THAT WOULD AUTHORIZE TRAVELER TO DRIVE
DIBEN ROUTE AND TO STAY IN INTOURIST HOTELS ON WAY TO
MOSCOW. WE SAY NO OBJECTION TO THAT PROCEDURE, BUT KORNEYEV
COUNTERED THAT EVEN IF THAT WAVE DONE, TRANSFERRING BARNES
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FROM INTOURIST AUSPICES TO THOSE OF ACADEMY AFTER

ARRIVAL WAS ALSO COMPLICATED. MOSKALEV INTERJECTED THAT "MANY, MANY" LETTERS TO SOVIET AUTHORITIES HAD BEEN WRITTEN ON BARNES' BEHALF AND THAT ACADEMY IS STILL TRYING TO RESOLVE SITUATION FAVORABLY. KORNEYEV, PERPETUAL NEGATIVIST, SUGGESTED THAT BARNES SHOULD STORE CAR IN POLAND AND THEN RETRIEVE IT AFTER USSR STAY FOR USE ON HIS TRIP TO YUGOSLAVIA. WE SAID THAT SOLUTION IS UNACCEPTABLE NOT ONLY BECAUSE OF BUREAUCRATIC INCONVENIENCE BUT BECAUSE OF EXPENSES INVOLVED. WE ALSO EXPRESSED AMAZEMENT THAT DIFFICULTIES SHOULD BE ENCOUNTERED IN CASE OF BARNES WHEN OTHER NAS EXCHANGEES HAVE HAD NO TROUBLE TRAVELING TO MOSCOW BY CAR ON PROGRAM. KORNEYEV SAID HE WOULD KEEP TRYING TO RESOLVE DIFFICULTIES AND LET US KNOW. IN MEANTIME, WE SUGGEST THAT IF BARNES WANTS TO TAKE THE RISK, HE PROCEED ON ASSUMPTION THAT ULTIMATELY QUESTION WILL BE RESOLVED IN HIS FAVOR. IN THIS CASE, HE WILL HAVE TO RELY UPON OBTAINING ENTRY VISA IN WARSAW, SINCE TIME IS PROBABLY ALREADY TOO SHORT FOR ISSUANCE IN BONN.

3. FYI: CURRENT EXCHANGEES GEORGE HART DROVE TO MOSCOW WITHOUT DIFFICULTY, ENTERING AT VYBORG. WE HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO CONTACT HIM, BUT WILL DISCUSS HIS EXPERIENCE BEFORE MAKING ANOTHER APPROACH TO KORNEYEV. STOESEL

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